

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: And in that opinion, the Attorney General made it very clear that the casual care exemption, the casual exemption excluded churches and their Sunday School and Bible School programs. Now the casual care exemption is contained right in this bill so there is no way that this bill is designed to reach the traditional Sunday School program, the traditional Bible School program, or even the nontraditional programs in the churches. This is not a bill designed in any way to inhibit a church from its ordinary and regular activities with respect to the care of children who come in for religious and educational purposes. Furthermore, the bill doesn't touch, doesn't even begin to touch those offerings that are two hours a week or less. So I personally think that the opposition that has surfaced from the Christian ministers and the Christian schools of this time essentially is without any real force because the bill is designed not to cause them any difficulty whatsoever. I, at this time, would move its consideration and advancement.

PRESIDENT: An amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have is by Senator Newell. (Read the Newell amendment as found on page 461 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the amendment that I offer is not a substantive amendment although as I understand it, it is not necessarily an agreed to amendment either. The proposal...let me preface my remarks by saying that I like LB 130. I think it does some very important things in terms of requiring for at least the large commercial child-care providers, it provides some regulation and some assurances to parents and families that their children will be taken care of, that the premises on which they are tended will be...have all the necessary codes and fire and all those kinds of assurances. Well, my proposal and the proposal that I offer here is a very simple one. It basically says that Nebraska being the kind of state it is and a really pretty small state and a lot of people knowing each other, that we really ought to aim this